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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET				
SUBJECT: (Optional) Monthly Report -- Tel Aviv Bureau				
FROM: Chief, Operations Group		EXTENSION 3-5991	NO. DATE December 1988	
TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
	RECEIVED	FORWARDED		
1. C/MOD				
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9. C/HED				
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11. C/Computer Operations				
12.				
13.				
14. FED Secretary				
15.				

FBIS-6000-89
1 January 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Tel Aviv Bureau -- December 1988

I. GENERAL

A. In continuation of late November activity, Nicosia Bureau's regional engineer [] and cruiser [] assisted by Tel Aviv engineer [] and cruiser [] conducted a reception survey of the five most likely sites for a new embassy in Tel Aviv. [] who returned to Tel Aviv for this purpose on short notice after having just returned to the island from a similar TDY, and [] conducted the survey from the 4th through the 8th. The site, selected by FBO, some 15 km northeast of Tel Aviv, posed no reception problems for the bureau.

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B. The shekel was devalued by 5 percent on the 27th, moving the official rate of exchange to NIS 1.68 to the dollar; further moves, according to Israeli media, are not being ruled out. In what THE JERUSALEM POST termed an "unprecedented revaluation," however, the next day the move was postponed until the start of the new year. Earlier, the Israeli economic planning and communications minister reported that the continuing uprising in the Israeli occupied territories, which marked its 1-year anniversary on the 9th, has cost the Israeli economy about \$900 million, or 2.5 percent of its Gross National Product.

C. In a low-key, factual report on the 27th, the daily HADASHOT mentioned the bureau, calling it a "body which helps the Americans form the 'Israeli profile.'" The daily specified the bureau's location and its organizational affiliation.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The bureau filed its first Niact Immediate message within institutional memory when Jerusalem Radio reported on the 17th that demonstrators angry at the U.S. recognition of the PLO were marching on the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem.

2. The bureau stayed open late several times during the month, as the leaders of the two major political blocs appealed to their parties to ratify the proposed coalition agreement.

B. Communications

1. The engineer and technicians successfully converted the bureau's mode of transmission to ASCII on the 15th. Downtime was less than 1 hour.

2. The bureau facsimile machine was put to good and frequent use in relaying items and summaries from Nicosia Bureau's contract Azeri monitor back to Nicosia. One call correctly dialed to Cyprus eventually wound up in Luxembourg, but the machine's initial erratic performance seems to have been overcome.

3. The bureau and Headquarters conducted a largely successful test of the International Direct Dialing (IDD) system on the 29th. The bureau plans to conduct monthly tests until all procedures are ironed out.

4. Nicosia communications operator [redacted] left the bureau on the 27th after a TDY lasting close to 2 months.

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III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Two new communications operators, [redacted] and [redacted] entered on duty on the 11th and 18th respectively.

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2. [redacted] concluded his editorial training TDY, leaving Tel Aviv on the 20th.

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3. Deputy Chief [redacted] began R & R travel when he departed for Switzerland on the 19th.

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IV. VISITS

A. The bureau and the Army Corps of Engineers, our fellow occupants of the 15th floor of the [redacted] building, sponsored a 3-hour "Open House" on the 29th for all embassy employees. Approximately 50 guests attended the affair and were treated to wine and cheese and provided with guided tours of the premises.

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B. Embassy Communications Program Officer [redacted] toured the bureau on the 15th and discussed various communicationns issues with the bureau chief.

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[redacted]

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Chief, Tel Aviv Bureau

cc: JN, NC